

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 OIC-02 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12
NEA-11 OMB-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 AID-05
ICA-20 EB-08 TRSE-00 ABF-01 PA-02 L-03 SP-02
/128 W

-----017745 041354Z /42

R 041251Z MAY 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9196
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 06767

PARIS FOR UNESCO
ROME FOR FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PORG, UN, TATT
SUBJECT: GENEVA GROUP AGREED CONCLUSIONS: TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE

TEXT FOLLOWS OF THE PORTION OF THE AGREED CONCLUSIONS
OF THE MAY 2-3 MEETING OF THE GENEVA GROUP AT THE
CONSULTATIVE LEVEL ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE: BEGIN TEXT

- I.

THE GROUP AGREED THAT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SHOULD
CONTINUE TO BE FUNDED PRIMARILY FROM VOLUNTARY CONTRIBU-
TIONS ADMINISTERED BY THE UNDP. WITHOUT SUGGESTING IT
WOULD BE FEASIBLE TO ELIMINATE COMPLETELY ALL ASSESSED
FUNDING OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, VIEWS AND IDEAS WERE
EXPRESSED ABOUT THE DESIRABILITY OF HAVING CLEARER
CRITERIA FOR THIS. THERE WAS A BROAD MEASURE OF AGREE-
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MENT THAT EFFORTS TO EXPAND THE EXISTING SCALE OF TECH-
NICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FINANCED THROUGH ASSESSED
BUDGETS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN THIS CONTEXT, AND BE
CAREFULLY EXAMINED TO SEE WHETHER THE NEED COULD NOT BE
MET THROUGH VOLUNTARY ALTERNATIVES.

IT WAS RECOGNIZED, ON THE OTHER HAND, THAT EFFORTS

TO LIMIT GROWTH OF REGULAR BUDGET RESOURCES FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NEEDED TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY PARALLEL EFFORTS TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF VOLUNTARILY FUNDED PROGRAMS.

THE IDEA WAS EXAMINED IN THIS CONNECTION THAT DONOR GOVERNMENTS MIGHT FIND IT FEASIBLE TO PROVIDE LONGER-TERM INDICATIONS OF LEVELS OF VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS WHICH WERE LIKELY TO BE MADE AVAILABLE. HOWEVER, THE CONSTITUTIONAL OR OTHER COMPLICATIONS MOST GOVERNMENTS WOULD FACE IN ATTEMPTING TO DO SO WERE POINTED OUT.

ALSO CONSIDERED IN THIS CONNECTION WAS THE NEED TO IMPROVE THE MANAGEMENT OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, AND ONE MEMBER ADVANCED THE IDEA OF CONDUCTING FIELD STUDIES (SEE III BELOW) SO AS TO BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO ADVANCE RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THIS.

THE UNANIMOUS ATTITUDE OF THE GENEVA GROUP'S MEMBERS WAS EXPRESSED ABOUT THE DESIRABILITY OF SUSTAINING UNDP AS THE MAJOR CHANNEL FOR VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OF THE UN SYSTEM. HOPE WAS EXPRESSED, TOO, THAT FURTHER PROGRESS MIGHT BE MADE IN ESTABLISHING DEFINITIONS AND PROCEDURES FOR THE ASSEMBLING OF DATA BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES; IN SETTING AND IMPLEMENTING

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TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR PROJECT APPRAISAL, MONITORING AND EVALUATION; AND IN STRENGTHENING EVALUATION EFFORTS GENERALLY WITHIN THE UN SYSTEM.

- II.

WHILE IT WAS RECOGNIZED THAT THE REPORT OF THE JOINT INSPECTION UNIT DID CONTAIN SOME USEFUL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS, CONCERN WAS EXPRESSED ON THE PART OF CERTAIN MEMBERS ABOUT THE SUGGESTION IN THE REPORT THAT GOVERNMENTS SHOULD ASSUME FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR MANAGING ALL UNDP FINANCED PROJECTS. IT WAS LEFT THAT THE REPORT WARRANTED CAREFUL EXAMINATION IN CAPITALS IN PREPARATION FOR THE FORTHCOMING MEETING OF THE UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL, AT WHICH TIME A FURTHER EXCHANGE MIGHT TAKE PLACE AMONG INTERESTED DELEGATIONS; AND THAT THE EXCHANGE HAD BEEN USEFUL IN HAVING DRAWN ATTENTION TO THE CONTENTS OF THE REPORT.

- III.

THE GROUP REVIEWED RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN

THE U.S. PILOT STUDY OF UN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES IN KENYA. THE GROUP WAS UNANIMOUS IN WELCOMING THIS PILOT STUDY, AND THANKED THE UNITED STATES FOR ITS EFFORT IN THIS REGARD. WHILE THE STUDY WOULD HAVE TO BE EXAMINED FURTHER IN CAPITALS, THERE WAS BROAD AGREEMENT IN THE DISCUSSION OF IT THAT THE ROLE OF THE UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO THE COORDINATION OF NON-UNDP FUNDED PROJECTS EXECUTED BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES. IT WAS FURTHER THOUGHT THAT THE RESULTS OF THE PILOT STUDY MIGHT USEFULLY BE PURSUED AT THE JUNE 1978 MEETING OF THE UNDP

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ICA-20 EB-08 TRSE-00 ABF-01 PA-02 L-03 SP-02
/128 W

-----017743 041354Z /42

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GOVERNING COUNCIL BY GENEVA GROUP DELEGATIONS INTERESTED
IN DOING SO.

ALL GENEVA GROUP MEMBERS BUT ONE FELT THAT SIMILAR COUNTRY STUDIES SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED WHERE CIRCUMSTANCES, INCLUDING THE COOPERATION OF THE HOST GOVERNMENT, PERMIT THEM, AND THEIR RESULTS SHOULD BE SHARED WITH OTHER GENEVA GROUP MEMBERS. SEVERAL MEMBERS SUGGESTED THAT THERE MIGHT BE SCOPE FOR JOINT COLLABORATION IN FIELD STUDIES, AND THAT THIS IDEA MIGHT BE PURSUED BY THE GENEVA GROUP (GENERAL).

END TEXT. VANDEN HEUVEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, TEXT, MEETING PROCEEDINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GENEVA06767
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780190-0868
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780594/aaaadchx.tel
Line Count: 167
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 65ee98a4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2796187
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GENEVA GROUP AGREED CONCLUSIONS: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TEXT FOLLOWS OF THE PORTION OF THE AGREED CONCLUSI
TAGS: PORG, TATT, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/65ee98a4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014